

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

-----063110 251202Z /46

R 250855Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4533

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 122

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 1031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GA XA

SUBJ: GAMBIAN REACTION TO OAU SUMMIT

REF: A) BANJUL 0959, B) BANJUL 0985

1. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE HE CALLED ON JULY 6, IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN FROM LIBREVILLE, PRESIDENT JAWARA SAID GAMBIA WAS "NOT TOO HAPPY" ABOUT FRONT-LINE STATES' RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT BECAUSE OF FEAR OF "DE-RECOGNIZING OTHER ZIMBABWE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." HE EMPHASIZED THAT OAU DECISION TO RECOGNIZE PF CAME ONLY AFTER LONG DELIBERATION. EMPHASIS IN ZIMBABWE, HE SAID MUST NOW BECMNCENTRATED ON ARMED STRUGGLE. NONETHELESS, SIR DAWDA ARGUED, RECOGNITION OF PF "DOES NOT TOUCH ON POLITICAL RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO CHOOSE THEIR LEADERS WHETHER THESE BELONG TO PATRIOTIC FRONT OR NOT." OVERALL, PRESIDENT JAWARA STRUCK POSITIVE NOTE IN DESCRIBING OAU SUMMIT, CALLING EXERCISE "WORTHWHILE."

2. CLEARLY, GOTG NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH OAU CONCENSUS ON
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RECOGNITION OF PF, PREFERING TO CONSIDER ACTION AS IN NO WAY COMPROMISING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF OTHER NATIONALIST GROUPS. MINISTER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JABANG TOLD CHARGE JULY 13 GAMBIANS ARE CONVINCED THAT ARMED STRUGGLE IS PRESENTLY MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS KEEPING PRESSURE ON SMITH GOVERNMENT. PF, HE SAID, IS VIRTUALLY SOLE MILITARY FORCE ON GROUND IN ZIMBABWE, THUS IT DESERVES FULL OAU SUPPORT FOR ITS ARMED

ACTIONS.

3. JABANG WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY NON-COMMITTAL IN DISCUSSING CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SUCH AS CHAD-LIBYA, AND ETHIOPIA-SUDAN, SAYING GAMBIAN DELEGATION MERELY LISTENED TO CONTENDING PARTIES. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, SIR DAWDA HAS ATTENDED EVERY OAU SUMMIT BUT ONE SINCE GAMBIAN INDEPENDENCE IN 1965, THUS HE BEGINNING TO PLAY A SENIOR STATESMAN ROLE IN OAU DELIBERATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, SIR DAWDA SPOKE OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, RECEIVING SYMPATHETIC HEARING (BUT FEW CONCRETE RESULTS).

4. PRAISING FIVE POWER INITIATIVES ON NAMIBIA, JABANG SAID US EFFORTS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED BY LARGE NUMBER OF OAU PARTICIPANTS. WE NOTE FROM PRESS ACCOUNT OF SIR DAWDA'S SPEECH IN LIBREVILLE THAT HIS STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA LARGELY COMPATIBLE WITH AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN SAG AND FIVE POWERS. ONLY NOTABLE EXCEPTION IS GAMBIAN PROPOSAL THAT ADMINISTRATOR OF NAMIBIA DURING TRANSITION SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY UNSG, RATHER THAN SAG (MATTER WHICH SIR DAWDA RAISED WITH AMB AGGREY DURING LATTER'S FAREWELL VISIT TO BANJUL JUNE 27).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANJUL01031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770264-0611
Format: TEL
From: BANJUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770724/aaaaaurx.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ed98264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANJUL 959, 77 BANJUL 985
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1764412
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAMBIAN REACTION TO OAU SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, GA, XA, RH, (JAWARA, DAWDA KAIRABA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ed98264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009